

NEWS RELEASE

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Unemployment Rates Continue Downward Trend in All Metro Areas *Modest Job Growth Still Uneven Across State*

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	July 2015	July 2014	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	4.7%	6.0%	-1.3
Carbondale-Marion	6.0%	7.3%	-1.3
Champaign-Urbana	5.0%	6.6%	-1.6
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	6.1%	7.4%	-1.3
Danville	6.7%	8.8%	-2.1
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	5.1%	6.3%	-1.2
Decatur	7.2%	8.8%	-1.6
Elgin	5.2%	6.8%	-1.6
Kankakee	6.2%	8.0%	-1.8
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	4.9%	6.3%	-1.4
Peoria	6.2%	7.3%	-1.1
Rockford	7.1%	8.4%	-1.3
Springfield	4.9%	6.1%	-1.2
St. Louis (IL-Section)	5.8%	7.5%	-1.7
Illinois Statewide	5.9%	7.3%	-1.4

** Data subject to revision.*

CHICAGO – July was the seventeenth month in a row that unemployment rates fell in every metro area in the state compared to a year ago, according to preliminary data released today by the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Rates also fell in all of Illinois's 102 counties for the fifteenth time in the last sixteen months. Not seasonally adjusted data compares July 2015 with July 2014.

Illinois businesses added jobs in eight metros. The largest increases were seen in: Danville (+2.1 percent, +600), Champaign-Urbana (+2.0 percent, +2,000), and Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division (+1.6 percent or +56,200). Decreases were seen in: Quad Cities (-1.9 percent, -3,600), Peoria (-1.1 percent, -1,900), and Carbondale-Marion (-0.9 percent, -500). The industry sectors recording job growth in the majority of metros were: Transportation, Warehousing and Public Utilities (11 of 14), Professional and Business Services (nine of 14), Wholesale Trade (eight of 14), Retail Trade (eight of 14) Education and Health Services (eight of 14), and Leisure and Hospitality (eight of 14).

“The year-over-year statewide unemployment rate has declined from 7.3 percent to 5.9 percent and continues to fall in all metro areas,” IDES Director Jeff Mays said. “However, we are still concerned that the long-term unemployed are still having difficulty finding jobs while there were 205,700 on-line job postings by Illinois employers in July.”

The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 5.9 percent in July 2015 and stood at 12.2 percent at its peak in this economic cycle in January 2010. Nationally, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.6 percent in July and 10.6 percent in January 2010 at its peak. The unemployment rate identifies those who are out of work and looking for work, and is not tied to collecting unemployment insurance benefits.

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – July 2015

Metropolitan Area	July 2015*	July 2014**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	93,100	92,600	500
Carbondale-Marion MSA	52,600	53,100	-500
Champaign-Urbana MSA	104,500	102,500	2,000
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Div.	3,655,500	3,599,300	56,200
Danville MSA	29,600	29,000	600
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island IA-IL MSA	182,300	185,900	-3,600
Decatur MSA	50,600	51,000	-400
Elgin Metro Division	255,300	252,300	3,000
Kankakee MSA	44,400	44,100	300
Lake County-Kenosha County IL-WI Metro Div.	410,800	408,300	2,500
Peoria MSA	177,200	179,100	-1,900
Rockford MSA	151,700	150,500	1,200
Springfield MSA	111,400	111,400	-0-
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	226,900	228,700	-1,800
Illinois Statewide	5,943,100	5,889,600	53,500

**Preliminary **Revised*

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Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates (percent) for Local Counties and Areas

	Jul- 15	Jul- 14	Over the Year Change
Rockford MSA			
Boone County	6.8%	7.9%	-1.1
Winnebago County	7.2%	8.5%	-1.3
Cities			
Belvidere City	8.7%	9.5%	-0.8
Freeport City	7.2%	9.1%	-1.9
Rockford City	8.7%	10.1%	-1.4
Counties			
Bureau County	5.7%	7.2%	-1.5
Carroll County	4.8%	6.3%	-1.5
DeKalb County	5.4%	6.7%	-1.3
Henry County	5.6%	7.0%	-1.4
JoDaviess County	4.4%	5.5%	-1.1
Kane County	5.2%	6.9%	-1.7
Lee County	4.9%	6.4%	-1.5
McHenry County	5.3%	6.4%	-1.1
Ogle County	6.0%	7.5%	-1.5
Stephenson County	6.1%	7.3%	-1.2
Whiteside County	6.0%	7.3%	-1.3

Stephenson County

The July 2015 not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.1 percent compared to 7.3 percent in July 2014. The last time the July rate was equal to or lower was in 2007 when it was 5.0 percent. For the month of July 2015, the number of people unemployed in the labor force was 1,350.

Total nonfarm employment fell -550 compared to a year ago. Professional-Business Services (+125) and Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (+50) added the most jobs from July 2014. Manufacturing (-250), Financial Activities (-225), and Leisure-Hospitality (-150) sectors recorded the largest employment declines compared to one year ago.

Note:

- Monthly 2014 unemployment rates and total non-farm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February 2015, as required by the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Comments and tables distributed for prior metro area news releases should be discarded as any records or historical analysis previously cited may no longer be valid.

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Rockford MSA Highlights

Help Wanted

Area employers advertised for 7,100 positions in July and approximately 86 percent sought full-time employment, according to Help Wanted OnLine data compiled by the Conference Board. It is a global, independent business membership and research association. Employers actually need more workers than the help wanted advertising indicates because some industries, such as construction, typically do not advertise job openings.

Rockford MSA

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 7.1 percent in July 2015 from 8.4 percent in July 2014. The last time the July rate was equal to or lower was in 2007 when it was 5.9 percent. For the month of July, the number of people unemployed in the labor force was 12,200.

Total nonfarm employment increased +1,200 compared to July 2014. Manufacturing (+800), Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (+400), Professional-Business Services (+200), and Retail Trade (+200) reported the largest payroll gains. Construction (-300), Educational-Health Services (-200), and Financial Activities (-100) recorded declines compared to one year ago.

Ogle County

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 6.0 percent in July 2015 from 7.5 percent in July 2014. The last time the July rate was equal to or lower was in 2007 when it was 5.3 percent. For the month of July 2015, the number of people unemployed in the labor force was 1,550.

Total nonfarm employment fell -225 compared to a year ago. The Manufacturing (+125) and Construction (+50) sectors added the most jobs over the year. Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (-100) and Other Services (-75) recorded the largest employment declines compared to one year ago.